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**VIA EFILING AND HAND DELIVERY**

January 23, 2008

Mr. Charles L.A. Terreni  
Chief Clerk/Administrator  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

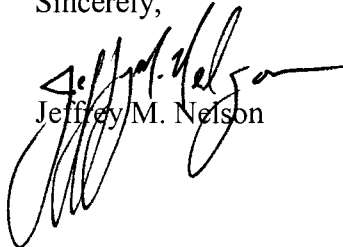
**Re: Article 2 – Addition of Regulations Governing “Stretcher Vans” to Comport with  
Changes in the Transportation Industry  
Docket No. 2007-445-A**

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed please find a proposed draft regulation prepared by the Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) addressing the above referenced topic, listed as Item 7, in the Public Service Commissions Notice of Drafting.

ORS appreciates the opportunity to comment and plans to participate in any workshops the Commission may hold regarding this matter. We will continue to review the regulations and forward any additional comments.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Nelson

## **R 103-133 (7) PC&N (Stretcher Vans). (Addition to current Regulations)**

Stretcher van service is a mode of non-emergency transportation which may be provided to an individual who cannot be transported in a taxi or wheelchair van due to convalescence or being non-ambulatory. Stretcher vans are not required or authorized to provide medical monitoring, medical aid, medical care or medical treatment of passengers during their transport. Self-administered oxygen is permitted. In addition to meeting the requirements set out in 103-133(4) and 103-133(6) above, applicants for a Certificate of CP&N for stretcher van vehicles must meet the following requirements:

### **A. Driver and Assistant Driver Qualifications/Requirements**

1. While providing transportation for hire, all stretcher vans shall be staffed by both a primary and an assistant driver. In addition to the general requirements provided for in 103-133(6) (A), stretcher van drivers and driver assistants shall be trained in transferring, loading and unloading passengers in stretchers.
2. A stretcher van passenger shall not be left unattended at any time.
3. The driver and driver assistant shall confirm that all restraining straps are fastened properly and the stretcher, stretcher fasteners and anchorages are properly secured prior to the vehicle transporting a passenger.
4. The driver assistant shall be seated in the passenger compartment while the vehicle is in motion and shall notify the driver of any sudden change in the passenger's condition.

### **B. Vehicle Requirements**

1. The stretcher van vehicle must be equipped with a stretcher used to transport individuals in the supine or Fowler's position.
2. Passengers shall be loaded headfirst.
3. The approved stretcher shall be elevating and wheeled. A minimum of three (3) patient restraining straps (chest, waist, and thigh) at least two (2) inches wide shall be provided. The stretcher van shall have proper means to secure the stretcher in its position under all conditions. Crash-stable stretcher fasteners must be provided.
4. A stretcher van vehicle must be maintained in good repair and safe operating condition and shall meet the same motor vehicle safety requirements as apply to all vehicles in South Carolina. Exterior surfaces of the vehicle including windows, mirrors, warning devices and lights must be undamaged and kept clean of dirt and debris.

5. Safety belts must be provided for all passengers.
6. Self-administered oxygen must be secured in accordance with AMD (Ambulance Manufacturers Division of the National Truck Equipment Association) Standard 003, "Oxygen Tank Retention System Test."
7. The interior of the stretcher van vehicle shall include secured storage compartments.
8. All storage compartments, supplies and equipment shall be kept clean and sanitary.

C. Limitations and Conditions of Service

1. Stretcher van vehicles shall not be used:
  - a. To transport a passenger who requires medical monitoring.
  - b. To transport more than one (1) stretcher passenger at a time.
2. When the medical condition of a passenger suddenly changes and requires care to be rendered, the operator of the stretcher van will immediately contact the local 911 dispatcher to request help, then notify their own base of operations to advise them of the situation. Appropriate basic first aid shall be initiated and continued until the EMS service has intercepted the transport or arrival at the hospital.